

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 05317 171314Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-03

H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00

PRS-01 SP-03 FEAE-00 OMB-01 SWF-02 DRC-01 EURE-00

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7226

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EC

SUBJECT: EC BANS BEEF IMPORTS

1. ON JULY 16 THE EC COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS, BOWING TO
INTENSE PRESSURES FROM FARMERS, BANNED THE ISSUANCE OF IMPORT

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PAGE 02 EC BRU 05317 171314Z

LICENCES FOR ALL TYPES OF BEEF, VEAL AND LIVE CATTLE FROM ALL

THIRD COUNTRIES EXCEPT FOR GATT-BOUND QUOTAS. THIS BAN
APPLIES FROM JULY 16 TO OCT. 31, 1974.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE COUNCIL VOTE ON THE IMPORT BAN WAS
VIRTUALLY
UNANIMOUS, WITH TWO MEMBER STATES (THE UK AND THE NETHERLANDS OR
DENMARK)
ABSTAINING. THE COUNCIL OVERRULED THE OBJECTIONS OF THE COMMISSION
WHICH HAD REFUSED TO MEET THE REQUESTS OF CERTAIN MEMBER STATES
FOR BANNING IMPORTS.

3. IN A DISCUSSION WITH A MISSION OFFICER, AVERY, A MEMBER OF
SOAMES' CABINET, DESCRIBED SOAMES AS "FURIOUS" OVER THE COUNCIL
ACTION. AVERY SAID THAT THE COUNCIL HAD ACTED "IRRESPONSIBLY".
SOAMES TOLD AMBASSADOR GREENWALD THERE IS STILL ENOUGH PROTECTIONIST
SENTIMENT LEFT IN EUOPE AND PARTICULARLY FRANCE SO THEY SEEK TO
SHIFT THE BURDEN TO OUTSIDE COUNTRIES (BY IMPORT RESTRICTIONS) WHEN
DIFFICULT SITUATIONS ARISE.

4. LARDINOIS, IN A PRESS BRIEFING, SAID THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL
DEFEND THE IMPORT BAN IN GATT ON JULY 17. HE SAID THE COMMUNITY
"HAS A VERY GOOD CASE" FOR JUSTIFYING THE MEASURE WHICH WILL NOT
APPLY
TO FROZEN BEEF AND LIVE CATTLE IMPORTED UNDER QUOTAS BOUND IN GATT.

5. PEART, THE UK MINISTER, DOWNPLAYED THE IMPORT BAN. HE AND OTHER
UK OFFICIALS MAINTAINED THAT THE "JUMELAGE" SYSTEM FOR IMPORT
(UNDER WHICH IMPORTERS MUST PURCHASE A QUANTITY OF INTERVENTION
BEEF EQUIVALENT TO THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS) HAS ALREADY SEVERELY
RESTRICTED IMPORTS AND THEREFORE THE BAN WILL HAVE LITTLE ECONOMIC
EFFECT.

6. FURTHER DETAILS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE JULY 15-17 MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL.
GREENWALD

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